



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE

February 25, 2003

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GOVERNOR

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- The Illinois Homeland Security Advisory System has been raised from the threat level classification yellow (significant risk of terrorist attacks) to orange (high risk of terrorist attacks) as of February 7, 2003, until further notice. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) recommends that county and local units of government consider implementing protective actions outlined for orange under the “County and Municipal Government Guidelines for Implementation of the State of Illinois Homeland Security Advisory System”. These guidelines, as well as other information, can be located at [www.state.il.us/iema](http://www.state.il.us/iema) or [www.illinoishomelandsecurity.org](http://www.illinoishomelandsecurity.org).
- X The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and American Red Cross (ARC) are formulating a plan for a Mass Care Annex in the event of a disaster of catastrophic nature which includes using IDOC kitchens and support personnel as well as liaisons provided by the ARC.
- X The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is preparing for the first of three evaluated full-scale Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises with the Dresden Station in March.
- X IDNS will resume radiological instrument, RADHAZMAT, and medical response training activities for local first responder organizations since training was suspended during the holidays.

- X The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) updated local health departments which have agreed to host a phase I smallpox vaccination clinic. Topics included:
  - X An overview of Pre-Event Vaccination System (PVS)
  - X Procedure/Mechanism for Vaccine Delivery
  - X Status of Clinic Plans Review
  - X Technical Assistance to be Provided by IDPH
  - X Summary of Workers Compensation/Liability
  - X IDPH Points-of-Contact for Vaccination Program
- X The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) approval of Illinois' Pre-Event Smallpox Plan resulted in the release of 10,000 doses of the smallpox vaccine to the IDPH.
- X IDPH conducted a satellite broadcast to Illinois hospitals and reviewed the requirements for a smallpox healthcare response team, provided an update on the status of the Illinois pre event smallpox vaccination program, reviewed the vaccine administration and the expected reactions and complications, discussed liability considerations and injury compensation issues, and provided a forum for questions and answers.
- X IDPH conducted a training session for internal employees regarding their roles and responsibilities as outlined in Illinois' Pre-Event Smallpox Plan. Attendees included members of the Infectious Disease Rapid Response Team, Regional Immunization and Communicable Disease Program Coordinators, Division of Laboratories, and others who will assist with the implementation and review of the smallpox vaccination clinics.
- X The Illinois Department of Public Health has created an internal working group containing personnel from the Division of Information Technology and Division of

Emergency Medical Services and Highway Safety to develop a mechanism to better track hospital resources and diversion statuses throughout Illinois. The improved tracking system will enable IDPH to properly coordinate a disaster response.

- X The Bioterrorism Committee to the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, under the leadership of the Illinois Department of Public Health, formed a working group to examine pediatric issues resulting from an act of bioterrorism. The group is currently in the process of developing pediatric protocols which could eventually be loaded onto handheld computers for field utilization by first responders. The group is also working on finalizing a pediatric weight-based medication dose resource tool that will include many of the resuscitation and treatment drugs for exposure to chemical and/or biological terrorism agents.

- X The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services, is creating a rapid mass evacuation plan for citizens suffering from injury and/or illness from a disaster area. A working group consisting of representatives from IDPH, Amtrak, other rail systems, and key-vested interest groups will assist with development of the plan which will be activated through the existing *State of Illinois Emergency Medical Disaster Plan*.

- X IDPH will present the *2003 Illinois Bioterrorism Summit* in Oakbrook, Illinois, June 24 - 26, to provide local health department staff and other medical and public health officials with a comprehensive overview of federal, state, and local bioterrorism preparedness activities that are ongoing in Illinois. The Summit will also provide a forum to facilitate networking between IDPH, local health departments, and the medical community. Promotional materials for the conference will be distributed in the coming weeks.

- X The Illinois Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, conducted the *Hazardous Material Awareness Train-the-Trainer* program. Attendees who successfully completed the program are eligible to teach the Hazardous Material Awareness program in Illinois. The train-the-trainer program is designed to facilitate increased participation by emergency medical and hospital personnel.
- X The Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team's (IMERT) mission is to respond/assist with emergency medical treatment at mass casualty incidents, including NBC incidents. The IMERT currently has 426 volunteers throughout the state including physicians, nurses, emergency medical service providers, and other allied health care providers. Volunteers must complete basic training in the Incident Command System, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and attend an IMERT boot camp which orients them with four equipment packages containing the latest innovations in emergency medical treatment. These medical professionals volunteer two weeks every six months to fulfill their call-time commitment. The IMERT Executive Council IMERT hopes to expand the number of teams to eight in 2003. For additional information on the IMERT, contact Greg Scott of the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 278-5900.
- X The Illinois Department of Public Health, as well as various Illinois mental health organizations, are discussing the creation of an IMERT mental health response component which would evaluate and address mental health issues as quickly as possible during a catastrophic incident. The mental health response system, if created, would address citizens' needs, both adult and pediatric, as well as emergency responders'.

- X     The American Red Cross is launching a new public information campaign called "Together We Prepare" which encourages five actions every organization, individual, and family should take to better prepare them for an emergency or disaster:
- X     **Make a plan.** Encourage members of your community to design a Family Disaster Plan which focuses on both families and individuals.
- X     **Build a kit.** Encourage households to assemble a Disaster Supply Kit which contains items that people may need if they are confined to their homes for an extended period (e.g., after a disaster or winter storm) or are told to evacuate on short notice.
- X     **Get trained.** Encourage residents in your community to get first aid, CPR, and AED training, and to attend Community Disaster Education presentations.
- X     **Volunteer.** Encourage the public to give their time through volunteering. It is understood that each Red Cross unit is somewhat different with regard to service delivery.
- X     **Give blood.** Encourage the public to become regular and frequent blood donors to ensure a blood supply that meets all needs, all of the time.